Government of India along with the State Governments is organising various trades through (i) Craftsman training in the Industrial Training Institutes and (ii) Apprenticeship training in the industries.

Funds are also being provided to States|Union Territories under the scheme of Vocational Education to offer courses, specific to the needs of the user community, in the schools.

The schemes have increased employability and self-employment opportunities for school leaving students.

News-item captioned 'STC Nets Rs. 70 Lakhs in Soya Meal Export'

126. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Miinster of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "STC nets Rs. 70 lakhs in soya meal export" which appeared in the Economic Times, New Delhi of the 11th June, 1991, in which it has been stated that STC has started processing soya bean to cater soya meal market abroad;

(b) if so, whether the role of directly processing seeds for exports would affect STC's efficiency in accelaration exports of other processors at this critical juncture;

(e) whether STC had contacted cooperative Institutions, such as projects assisted NDDB or National Cooperative Development Corporation in the States of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan before deciding on processing of soya beans through job contracts; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for failure in reaching an accord with cooperative processor in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir. STC is pro cessing soya beans on its own account in order to augment its export turnover of extractions. The soya bean oil derived in the process is sold in the domestic market.

(b) No, Sir. With the decline of imports canalised through STC, the processing of soyabeans by it has contributed a turnover of Rs. 14 crores during the first year of its operation by utilising the indigenous processing capacity.

(c) and (d) Processing units in the Public|Cooperative]Joint Sectors were also contacted by STC and the selection of the units was finalised on the basis of their competitiveness.

Application of Super 301 Classification

127. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:
SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the press report regarding application of "Super 301" classifications to India and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and what steps Government propose to persuade USA to withhold the penalties under "Super 301"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) On 26 April 1991, the United States Trade Representative (USTR) designated India as a Priority Foreign Country under the Special 301 provision of the U.S. Omnibus Trade & Competitiveness Act of 1988 along with China and Thailand for allegedly denying adequate and effective protection of intellecual property rights and having an adverse impact, actual or potential, on US products.

Under the Special 301 provisions if a country is identified as a Priority Foreign Country, the USTR must initiate an investigation of the policies and practices

that were the basis of the identification within 30 days. The investigation must be concluded within six months, unless it is extended by a further three months. At the end of the investigation period, the USTR must decide whether the measures under investigation are actionable and if so, decide what response is appropriate, including possible retaliation.

Government of India has regretted the unilateral decision of the Government of United States when these issues are alread being negotiated in the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations.

Retaliatory action under Special 301 is not mandatory. Further the U.S. Trade Representatives has stated that imposition of trade sanctions is not inevitable or desirable.

AIDS cases in Andhra Pradesh

128. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any identified AIDS' effected cases in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps are being taken to prevent the spread of this dreaded disease; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under Govercment's consideration to screen the passengers at the international airports to segregate 'AIDS' effected pa tients?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI): (a) and (b) As per information available, the total number of sero positive cases and AIDS cases in the State of Andhra Pradesh is as follows:

HIV sero positive: 59

AIDS case: 1 (Blood Recipienf-Haemophilic)

The Government of India under the National AIDS Control Programme has;

(i) intensified the sero and sentinel surveillance for detecting HIV infections in the country and the population at risk.

(ii) strengthened the management of HIV infected personsjAIDS by identifying AIDS unit for clinical management of HIV infected AIDS cases in 13 medical colleges of the country.

(iii) intensifying the community education & health education activities.

(iv) strengthening blood safety programme.

(c) No.

Request by Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board to NABARD for Reduction of Interest Rate

129. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI; Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether any request has been made by Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board to NABARD for reduction of interest rate on loans advanced by Rural Electrification Corporation and Banks for pumpset ener gisation and for extending moratorium and repayment periods; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DAL-BIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) had received a request from Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board (APSEB) in April, 1990, for reduction of interest rates for from 11.5 per cent to 10.0 per cent on loans advanced by Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) and banks for pumpset energisation. NABARD does not find the demand acceptable and has explained the matter to APSEB.

Tobacco and Cigarette Exports to China and USSR

130. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI; Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleated to state the details of tobacco and cigarette exports to China and Soviet Union during the last five years yearwise, specifying the names of the exporters, the quantity exported and the value realised?